

Short communication — Kurze Mitteilung — En bref

The valid subspecific name for the *Erebia epiphron* (Knoch, 1783) population of Mt. Canigou, Pyrénées-Orientales (Nymphalidae : Satyrinae)

Frans CUPEDO

Processieweg 2, NL-6243 BB Geulle, The Netherlands.

Until 1946, the Canigou race of *Erebia epiphron* (Knoch, 1783) has been considered identical with the Vosgian form, and consequently has been called ssp. *mackeri* Fuchs, 1914 (see Warren, 1936). De Lesse (1947) drew attention to the differences between both populations, and considered the Canigou population to be a distinct taxon which he named “race” *fauveaui*; he emphasizes that he uses the term “race” for the taxonomic unit called “form” by Warren, because the French “forme” would not have the same meaning as the English “form”, and thus would not represent a correct translation of the latter. It is because of this argumentation that I consider Art. 45g of the Code (ICZN, 1985) applicable to the taxa called “race” by de Lesse in the paper cited. According to art. 45g (ii) (1) *fauveaui*, though originally established as a quadrimenon, should be considered as a subspecific name since, prior to 1985, it has been treated as an available name and has been adopted as the name of a subspecies (Dufay, 1961; Warren, 1981).

However, a year before de Lesse’s publication, Eisner, after studying the *Erebia*-collection of the Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum at Leiden, The Netherlands, described a number of new subspecies and aberrations (Eisner, 1946). Among them the Canigou population of *Erebia epiphron* he named ssp. *orientpyrenaica* Eisner, 1946. This name, generally overlooked for more than 40 years, has priority over *fauveaui* de Lesse, 1947 which, though in common use all that time, should be considered as a junior subjective synonym of *E. epiphron orientpyrenaica* Eisner, 1946 (holotype ♂, Mont Canigou, VII.1928, leg. J. Staettermayer, coll. Mezger, Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, Leiden, The Netherlands).

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